Mr President,

In March 2023, the Human Rights Council regrettably decided to end the mandate of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on Libya and instead adopt a capacity-building resolution with no investigative and monitoring component. Since then, state security forces, militias, and armed groups have continued to commit a wide array of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations, with near complete impunity. As evidenced by the Libyan authorities’ shortcomings in adequately investigating the causes and circumstances surrounding the devastating loss of life and destruction caused by Storm Daniel in September 2023, there is a critical need for an independent, international investigative mechanism.

The Council is set to repeat the same mistakes it made in March 2023. The current draft resolution falls far short of the investigative and monitoring mechanism recommended by the FFM and risks to further entrench impunity. Instead, it opts for technical assistance and capacity-building only—often with respect to the very authorities complicit in abuses or their cover up.

This session presents a critical opportunity for the Council to establish an independent, international investigative mechanism. Such a mechanism should consolidate and build upon the information collected by previous mechanisms, investigate ongoing crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations, and share information and evidence with relevant national, regional and international prosecutors and courts with competent jurisdiction. We urge the Council not to miss again an opportunity to pursue accountability in Libya.

Thank you.